

Convocation Address

MCE, Hassan

DrSVSharma, Deputy Director ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore

Members of Malnad academic council, principals,

Members of the Faculty, Staff and Graduants,

Distinguished Guests, Parents, Media Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am delighted to be present here at Malnad College of Engineering on the occasion of 6th Graduation today of MCE university. I thank you all for inviting me to deliver the convocation address.

It is heartening to note that this campus has provided some of the finest Engineers to ISRO and some of my prominent colleagues are also from your college.

First and foremost, I congratulate you all on your successful completion of course works and getting a university degree. It's a great feeling. In a person's academic life this is a memorable moment. Generally speaking, a university degree is believed to open up the career prospects in one's life. It helps you achieve your dreams. Of course having dreams and setting goals are individual choices. You are lucky that you are getting the degrees from this premier institute .

When you go out of the University and college campus , you begin a long journey. A journey of different kind. I wish you all the best, in your next journey to be more purposeful and have a worthy goal.

As you all know, your college campus, situated in Hassan city popularly known as poor mans ooty, was established in 1960, under 2nd five year plan, only one of the single digit engineering colleges that time, in sprawling 42 acres land. Its connected to the world famous monuments Belur, Halebidu, Shravanabelagola and our own Master Control Facility MCF. This college with about 2750 students has been successful in producing a large number of Engineering graduates and post graduates of world repute year after year.

I do understand, the campus has been able to achieve its commitment, providing its students a high quality education in a technology enabled environment and adding values to their knowledge with high degree of integrity and efficiency.

Dear Young Friends! I am sure, you would prove worthy of being an alumni of this prestigious institute namely Malnad College of Engineering.

Today, our country needs trained manpower in all the areas. Trained manpower is the real asset of any nation. As future leaders in your respective fields, you are required not only to realize your own dreams but also to full fill the hopes and aspirations of millions who are not as privileged as you.

Now I want all of you to understand how lucky you are. Let us look at where we are in the space time domain.

For that I want to take you all in space travel. Our mother earth is about 12700km across. You know it goes around the Sun at an average speed of about 30km/s. It means at this moment we are all travelling in space at the speed of more than 100,000km/s speed. Our Earth is part of Solar system. Our solar system is of 4 light years across. Solar system is Part of Milky Galaxy, it is about 100,000 light years across. There are

more than 100 billion galaxies in our universe. The observable universe is about 91 billion light-years in diameter at the present time. You know, the light travels with a speed of 300,000km/s. The distance travelled by light one year is called one light year. Now imagine our universe is of 91 billion light years size across. You and me are not more than 2 to 3 feet across.

It means how tiny and miniscule we are.

Similarly the life form has evolved over hundreds of thousand years.

As human also we have progressed a lot. Hundreds of generations have come and gone.

Still, Friends, I believe you are really in a gifted generation. Yes, your generation is immensely exposed to the advances in science and technology. You are better equipped to create a knowledge based and technology driven society.

But we are all living in a very crucial period. I don't know what will happen to the future of the humanity. If don't we mend the way we are living, future is going to be a big question.

We all work to be in the upper part of social strata in terms of wealth.

Over and above the economic progress, it is important to have a peaceful and happy society.

From the experience in the advanced countries, it has been seen that wealth is no Guarantee for happiness.

Happiness is the healthy state of mind and body.

Being the budding Engineers, You have the chance to make the nation more happier place to live than it is today.

It's the time for you to keep this in mind all through your journey.

The strength of a nation is judged from her human resources, not by just head count but a skilled, educated and more than else a humane population. You have a good share to make this to happen.

You acquire your wealth for what you deliver still you have an opportunity to improve the living standard of others too.

We are aware that our country is still passing through a very crucial phase of development due to rapid increase in population. Our leaders are faced with the challenges to reconcile between poverty and plenty, development and corruption, tradition and modernism and most importantly for the urban and rural divide. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that every Indian has access to basic needs.

Commercial interests should be set aside when we consider right to education.

I understand, Malnad College of Engineering, has set remarkably high standards in teaching and training. I look forward to this institution and its products witnessing this tradition and making a legacy for itself.

Ladies and gentlemen, Young friends, You can play a very important role for development and to improve quality of life of Indian citizen through sincere and dedicated work. There are of course many challenges before you. Accept these challenges and convert them into opportunities and build your career with confidence and serve the nation with commitment to professional ethics.

We humans have a poor record of succeeding at any thing we

believe to be impossible. But there is also a remarkable record of people doing the impossible when they didn't know it was impossible.

Mahatma Gandhi got freedom to India when he didn't know it was impossible to fight against mighty British without even taking arms following principle of non-violence.

Poor bumble bee flies happily when it does not know the laws of aero dynamics won't allow them to fly.

Marcony invented Radio when he didn't know it was impossible to send one's voice across the continents.

Wright Brothers invented Aeroplane when they didn't know it was impossible for men to fly in the Air.

Why all these stories from else where, Team ISRO succeeded both in Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan in their first attempt when they didn't know it was impossible to succeed in first attempt to the Moon and the Mars that too with less money and restricted schedule.

In short, innocence and innovation go hand in hand together. So, to innovate and be an innovator preserve and nurture your innocent enquiring spirit.

Dear Graduants, On the personal ground you all know that there is no major physiological difference between us and the history makers. However they make history because one day in their life they woke up, discovered the sleeping potential within them, nurtured it and found a place in history.

Let this day mark one such day for some of you.

Every moment, the life teaches us provided we are willing to learn.

There is an old saying that any day can be a last day in one's life.

Let us have a new paradigm, that this is the first day of your life. Wake up the sleeping potential within you, stand up and look at the limit less possibilities that unfold in front of you, to imprint your name in the human history.

It is the time for all of us to realise one thing, that nobody has ever and nobody will ever define the boundary of what every human is capable of. The limit lies between two of our ears, in our mind.

Can I tell a little story from my life, like any other school student I also read about scientists and achievers in the text books, I also wrote the names of people and their life in the exams, listened to the lectures of scholars, read the books written by them? I was wondering what takes one to that position of figuring in the text books, exams, taking podium to speak and finally writing books. Believe me today I am there in all those places, text books, exam questions, national and international podiums and even I have written few books.

In 1982 when I first came to Bangalore, I had the chance to visit the Visveswariah Technical museum. I was amazed to see many working models of inventions. But all of them were depicting the foreign inventions. I thought, one day Indian gadgets also should find a place in that museum. Recently when I went for 50th year celebration of the same museum and saw Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan models, I did recollect my first visit. It took more than 30 years, a long journey indeed but proved more meaningful, isn't it?

When I tell these stories, it is not of self trumpeting, but rather conveying a sense of one's own accomplishment. I honestly

feel one should not feel shy of telling such things, rather should feel proud about it, if it creates an opportunity of resonating among the listeners and take their level of thinking. I think this convocation address is one such opportunity to convey my life story to you that one day you will become a person of you want to become. This great nation needs and can accommodate many more.

On this important moment of your life, make a resolve in your mind to achieve something meaningful, purposeful, everlasting that people will look upon with your name behind. You will eventually be what you constantly believe yourself to be.

However there is a caution, don't be so busy chasing the big things in life that you neglect life's simple pleasures of how to live your own life. In other words, while aiming to be good at your chosen career, aim also to be a good son or daughter, good husband or wife, good father or mother to sum it all, aim to be a good citizen. A balanced personal and professional life makes one to enjoy the completeness of life.

I don't believe in sacrificing one's life for that unknown and unexplored heaven. To me, that smile you bear in your face and that one you could bring it in the face of others is the real language of heaven.

Master that heavenly language.

Be true and sincere to yourself and others, day in and day out.

Let this degree you attach to your name initiate that wonderful journey to meet that person you are indented to be in the human history.

To you know which my favourite TV show is, it is Venkatesh Bhat's, Samyal Samayal. The passion in which he presents the recipes is such a wonderful treat to watch. It does not matter what you do, but how you do matters more than anything else. Involvement and interest in which you do your job will take you the newer heights.

I am happy to note that Nearly 610 Students of MCE from various branches of engineering are graduating today. I congratulate each one of you once again on your success and wish you all the best.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, the faculty, students and esteemed friends, I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to you all for your kind attention. I also thank the institute authorities sincerely, for inviting me on this occasion.

Jai Hind